

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

DATE: October 5, 1953

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF DATA
ON "OPERATION CANDOR" TO
COLUMNIST STEWART ALSOP

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____

On October 2, 1953, Mr. C. D. Jackson, Special Assistant to the President, called Mr. Bartlett of the Liaison Section and advised that he had a matter that he would like to bring to the Bureau's attention. On the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Bartlett called on Mr. Jackson in his office in the Executive Office Building. Mr. Jackson stated that he was disturbed about a premature disclosure of data concerning "Operation Candor" to columnist Stewart Alsop. By way of explanation, Mr. Jackson stated that "Operation Candor" is a plan to reveal to the American public by television and radio the problems of national survival in the nuclear age.

Mr. Jackson stated that he and his staff have been working on this plan for a long time, and that just recently the dates were set for these proposed 7 programs, and at the same time the final list of administration leaders who are to participate was formulated. Mr. Jackson stated that under date of September 16, 1953, Stewart Alsop's column, entitled "Matter of Fact," revealed the date of October 4, 1953, as the starting date and the name of Senator Alexander Wiley as one of the participants; that neither fact had been determined until 48 hours prior to this disclosure and inasmuch as these facts were known only to a small group of people and had not been made public, there must have been a "leak" on the part of someone in the inner circle.

Mr. Jackson further advised the inner circle on this project included persons from the White House, State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, Atomic Energy Commission, Civil Defense and the Defense Department. After the Alsop column appeared prematurely, Mr. Jackson stated that he learned that Mr. Philip Graham, publisher of "The Washington Post," knew the identity of Alsop's informant. Mr. Jackson stated he contacted Mr. Graham and asked him for the name of this individual and Graham refused to furnish it.

Attachment

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RECORDED - 93

INDEXED - 93

OCT 21 1953

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